

I
Urban District of Shepton Mallet

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(Including the Report of the Public Health Inspector)

FOR THE YEAR

1970



SHEPTON MALLET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

(including the report of the
Senior Public Health Inspector)

for the year ending 31st December, 1970

Council Offices,
Market Place,
Shepton Mallet,
BA4 5BA



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SHEPTON MALLET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER - 1970

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Medical Officer of Health

Deryck E. Clare, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., M.R.S.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector

W.L. Barnsley, C.Eng., F.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Certificated Meat and Foods Inspector
(also Surveyor to the Council)

Additional Public Health Inspector

G.T. Hill, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerical Staff

Medical Officer's Clerk - Mrs. M.A. Paton

Public Health Inspector's Clerks - Miss J. Connock
Mr. R.J. Gulliford (up to 1st May)
Mr. M. Errington (from 1st June)

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SHEPTON MALLET

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1970

Tel: Wells 73379
Wells 72643 (Residence)

Area Health Office,
37 Chamberlain Street,
WELLS,
BA5 2PQ

To the Chairman and Members of the Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my tenth Annual Report for the District, compiled in accordance with Circular 1/71 of the Department of Health and Social Security.

With a birth rate the highest for five years, and a death rate the lowest for the same period, a lowered stillbirth rate and no maternal mortality, the health statistics for the town give reasonable cause for satisfaction. Cases of Hong Kong 'flu continued to occur in the early part of the year and there were moderate waves of measles and whooping cough, but no major epidemic diseases were reported.

Problems which occurred on the environmental side, such as at the tip and with the sewerage system are as detailed in the Report of the Senior Public Health Inspector to whom and to his Deputy I am grateful for their co-operation.

My thanks are also due to the other Officers of the Council, Members and colleagues in the town for their support.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

D.E. CLARE,

Medical Officer of Health.

MAIN VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1970

(With comparative figures for Somerset and England and Wales where available)

<u>BIRTHS</u>				<u>Shepton Mallet U.D.C.</u>			
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Recorded</u>	<u>Corrected</u>	<u>Somerset</u>	<u>England & Wales</u> (Provisional)
Legitimate	51	46	97			8,282	
Illegitimate	4	5	9			545	
Totals	<u>55</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>106</u>			<u>8,827</u>	<u>784,482</u>
Rate per 1,000 population				17.7	18.6	15.1	16.0
(Area Births Comparability Factor 1.05)						(Corrected)	
Ratio of local corrected birth rate to national rate 1.16							
<u>ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS</u>							
(per cent of total live births)				8.0		6.0	8.0
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>							
Legitimate	-	1	1				9,297
Illegitimate	-	-	-				<u>1,044</u>
Totals	-	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>			94	<u>10,341</u>
Rate per 1,000 live and still births				9.0		11.0	13.0
<u>TOTAL LIVE & STILL BIRTHS</u>							
	55	52	107			8,921	794,823
<u>DEATHS</u>							
<u>TOTAL DEATHS</u>	32	43	75			7,493	575,208
(all ages)							
Rate per 1,000 population				12.5	9.8	10.6	11.7
(Area Deaths Comparability Factor .78)						(Corrected)	
<u>INFANT DEATHS</u>							
(under 1 year)							
Legitimate	1	-	1				12,592
Illegitimate	-	1	1				<u>1,677</u>
Totals	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>			146	<u>14,269</u>
(Under 4 weeks)							
Legitimate	1	-	1				8,548
Illegitimate	-	1	1				<u>1,115</u>
Totals	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>			99	<u>9,663</u>
(Under 1 week)							
Legitimate	1	-	1				7,343
Illegitimate	-	1	1				<u>985</u>
Totals	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>				<u>8,328</u>

MAIN VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1970 (cont.)

	<u>Shepton Mallet U.D.C.</u>		<u>Somerset</u>	<u>England & Wales</u> (provisional)
	<u>Recorded</u>	<u>Corrected</u>		
<u>INFANT MORTALITY RATES</u>				
Total Infant Deaths per 1,000				
Total Live Births	19.0		17.0	18.0
Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000				
Legitimate Live Births	10.0		16.0	17.0
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 illegitimate Live Births	111.0		24.0	26.0
<u>NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATES</u> (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)				
	19.0		11.0	12.0
<u>EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE</u> (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)				
	19.0		9.0	11.0
<u>PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE</u> (Still births and deaths under 1 week combined with 1,000 live and still births)				
	28.0		20.0	23.0
<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY (Including abortion)</u>				
Number of deaths	NIL		1	
Rate per 1,000 total live & still births	NIL		.11	

CERTAIN VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE FIVE-YEAR PERIOD 1966 - 1970
WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR SOMERSET AND ENGLAND AND WALES

	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
1. <u>Corrected Birth Rate</u>					
Shepton Mallet U.D.C.	16.42	17.2	17.5	17.7	18.6
Somerset	17.86	17.7	16.9	16.8	15.1
England & Wales	17.7	17.2	16.9	16.3	16.0
2. <u>Corrected Death Rate</u>					
Shepton Mallet U.D.C.	10.14	10.1	12.6	12.1	9.8
Somerset	10.37	10.1	10.9	10.8	10.6
England & Wales	11.7	11.2	11.9	11.9	11.7
3. <u>Infant Mortality Rate</u>					
Shepton Mallet U.D.C.	-	-	-	41.0	19.0
Somerset	15.12	14.0	15.6	16.0	17.0
England & Wales	19.0	18.3	18.0	18.0	18.0

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (5 YEAR PERIOD 1966 - 1970)

DISEASE	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Dysentery - Sonne	-	-	-	43	-
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	-	1
Measles	-	16	60	9	58
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	1	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis - Respiratory	-	1	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	6	-	-	67
	3	24	60	52	126

(As given by the Registrar-General)

[illegible]

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1970(cont.)

(As given by the Registrar-General)

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total all Ages	Under 4 wks 4 wks & under 1 year	Age in Years							
				1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-
Intestinal Obstruction	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
and Hernia	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other Diseases of the	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Digestive Systn.	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Diseases,	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Genito-Urinary Systn.	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Birth Injury,	M	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Difficult Labour Etc.	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other causes of	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Perinatal mortality	F	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Symptoms & Ill-	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Defined Conditions	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Motor Vehicle	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Accidents											
All other Accidents	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
<hr/>											
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	32	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	9	11
	F	43	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	2	11

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1970

The figures are in general too small for much importance to be attached to them, but certain broad statements can be made).

Population

The mid-year population of Shepton Mallet was estimated to be 6,000 in 1970, a rise of 260 over that for the previous year, and live births exceeded death by 31.

Births

Live Births - totalled 9 more than in 1969, giving a birth rate significantly higher than that of Somerset or England and Wales as a whole. The number of illegitimate live births rose to 9 giving a percentage of total live births identical to the National figure.

Still Births - fell to only 1 resulting in a Stillbirth Rate considerably lower than County or National rates.

Deaths

All Ages - deaths fell by 14, compared with the previous year, to 75, giving a Corrected Death Rate better than County or National rates.

Infant Mortality - infants deaths (2) were a half of those in 1969, giving improved mortality rates, but they were still higher than those of Somerset or England & Wales. Both deaths occurred under 1 week of age.

Maternal Mortality - it is a pleasure to record that this was again nil.

Causes of Death

Diseases of the Heart, Cerebrovascular Disease & Other Diseases of the Circulatory System together causes the greatest mortality in the town with 37 deaths, 1 more than in 1969. Of these Heart Diseases accounted for 19 deaths compared with Cerebrovascular Disease with 13 deaths.

Diseases of the Respiratory System this year caused the second largest mortality, with 11 deaths, but there were 5 fewer than in 1969. Pneumonia accounted for the greatest number (9) and mortality was almost equally spread amongst the two sexes.

Cancer - deaths totalled 10, 8 fewer than in the previous year and as regards site, it will be seen that cancer of the breast led with 3 deaths followed by lung cancer with 2.

Accidents - deaths from these (3) totalled 2 more than in 1969; they occurred in the latter half of life and only one involved a motor vehicle.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Apart from sizeable outbreaks of measles and whooping cough in the town, there is little on which to report during 1970.

Injections of gammaglobulin were obtained for the contacts of the single case of Infective Jaundice and there was no further spread of this disease.

ANNUAL RETURN OF FOOD POISONING AND HUMAN SALMONELLA INFECTIONS

One case of Salmonella carrau infection was reported during the year, occurring in an adult on holiday abroad and this illness was believed to have been picked up from fruit.

MILK AND DAIRIES (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1959

No known cases of brucellosis occurred in dairy herds in this Urban District during 1970.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (Sec. 47) & AMENDMENT ACT 1951

No action was required under the provisions of these Acts.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1970

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen

I beg to present my Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Section of my Department during the year 1970. This is my fourteenth Report and, as in previous years, the work has consisted mainly of routine matters but special mention must be made of the difficulties experienced in connection with housing repairs, refuse disposal and sewage disposal which are referred to in the appropriate section of the Report.

During the year 145 plans were submitted under the Building Regulations 1965 and it is becoming increasingly evident that the control of building and adequate supervision of repairs to Council properties calls for the engagement of additional technical staff to be concerned solely with this aspect of the work of the Department.

My thanks are due to my own staff and all other Officers of the Council for their assistance during the year and to the Members of the Council for their continued support.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

W.L. BARNESLEY

Senior Public Health Inspector

1. WATER SUPPLY

(a) The public supply of water is obtained from the mains of the Bristol Waterworks Company there being four principal sources:-

1. Windsor Hill
2. Stoke Bottom
3. Beacon Hill
4. Stomacher Farm

The water supplied is not liable to plumbo-solvent action and two samples submitted for qualitative examination proved satisfactory. No shortages occurred during the year and no restrictions on the use of water imposed.

The natural Fluoride Content of the water was as follows:-

Windsor Hill	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	p.p.m.	..	0.02
Stoke Bottom	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.05
Beacon Hill	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.40
Stomacher Farm	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

The distribution of water supplies throughout the district is, so far as can be ascertained, as follows:-

- (i) Main supplies: 2107 dwellings. Population: 6000
- (ii) Supplies from wells or springs: 7 Population: 20

The two samples of water taken for chemical analysis by Council Officers proved to be of satisfactory chemical purity and of a moderately hard character. Three samples were taken for bacteriological examination and in all cases Bacti. coli (type I) was not demonstrated.

(b) During the year a section of the 4" diameter water main to serve the Charlton/Frog Lane area was laid but because of the high cost of excavating in rock some difficulty arose in selecting a route for mains to two properties. This difficulty was ultimately resolved and owners are to be required to connect to the public supply.

2. SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

(a) With the exception of some 70 properties in outlying parts of the area all properties are connected to public sewers discharging to the biological treatment plant at Darshill. Treatment of sewage is effected by (a) initial screening; (b) sedimentation; (c) filtration. Alternating double filtration is, under general conditions, operating

continuously, each set of filters acting alternately as primary and secondary filters.

In November failure of two recirculation pumps occurred and it became evident that extensive repairs or renewal would be required. Two electric motors were repaired but the two pumps were also found to be defective. At this time also breakdowns occurred at the effluent pre-treatment plant at the perry factory. The cumulative effect was a serious deterioration in the quality of the effluent from the disposal works at Darshill. The situation is that the works appear to be capable of dealing with domestic sewage by gravity, that is, without recirculation, but cannot satisfactorily accommodate strong trade effluents by this method.

The problems of the drying and disposal of sludge continued and the view is held that consideration must be given in the near future to the adoption of alternative methods. Apart from the high cost of constructing drying beds and the long delays in drying of sludge which occur the present methods adopted are very wasteful of manpower and do not result in a readily handleable end product.

Regular inspections of the River Sheppey were carried out downstream of the outfall from the works and until the breakdowns referred to above occurred no evidence of sewage fungus was observed.

(b) Main Outfall Sewer. Works for the reconstruction of this sewer were still outstanding at the end of the year. The Somerset River Authority approved the construction of an embankment to a section of the River Sheppey which would protect the source of a private water supply but the Council's Consulting Engineers produced a scheme which would avoid this element. The new scheme involved the conveyance of all sewage to the works and also removed the necessity for a storm water overflow. Other alternatives were also considered but because of difficulties in construction and high costs involved the Council adopted the scheme referred to above.

At the close of the year details of the method of dealing with flows in excess of 3 times the dry weather flow, that is, the design capacity of the works, were being discussed with the River Authority.

(c) Dredging of the River Sheppey at Bowlish with the purpose of preventing flooding in this locality was started in December and a marked improvement in the rate of flow was observed on the completion of the first section.

3. PUBLIC CLEANSING

A weekly collection of domestic refuse is in operation and trade refuse is collected twice weekly. For domestic refuse a Fore and Aft Tipping Vehicle with compaction plate is used, the vehicle being of 15 cubic yards capacity. For many years the collection team has consisted of a driver/loader and two loaders and, because of increase in the number of properties to be served as well as the continuing increase in the volume of refuse, these men are employed permanently on overtime for five hours per week (i.e. 15 man/hours).

Disposal is by controlled tipping at Windsor Hill. Once again attention was drawn to the continuing fly nuisance at the tip and it is quite evident that the use of a tractor is not solving the problem. The main cause of the nuisance appears to arise not wholly from freshly tipped refuse but from succeeding generations of flies. There are thus two aspects of the problem to be considered, i.e. adequate compaction and sealing of tipped material and spraying of adjoining areas of brushwood with insecticide. The Council agreed to include in their estimates for 1971 an item for the acquisition of more suitable equipment for use at the tip in the form of a tracked machine to replace the tractor and more efficient spraying equipment.

4. CARAVAN SITES

There are two camping sites in the District sponsored by the Caravan Club both of which are conducted satisfactorily.

5. SWIMMING POOL

There is one public swimming pool in the district owned by the Council. The water is continually circulated filtered and chlorinated and its temperature is maintained at about 70°F. Chlorination is effected by a Wallace and Tiernan Automatic Chlorinator and the purification plant is of the Horsley Piggott horizontal type. The

The water turnover period is approximately 12 hours, the pool being filled at the beginning of the season from the mains of the Bristol Waterworks Company. During the season the water is sampled twice daily to determine its PH value and residual chlorine by Lovibond Comparitor.

In order to provide additional area for the less proficient swimmers and because of the necessity to renew the bottom of the pool it was decided to reduce the depth over two-thirds of the total area and a scheme for this purpose was prepared for construction in 1971. The scheme also included the erection of new changing cubicles for ladies, the original cubicles having been burned down in November. There is still a need for additional changing facilities for both men and women.

HOUSING

(a)	Number of dwellings owned by Local Authority	645
	Number of dwellings owned privately	1,462
	Total number of dwellings in district	2,107
	Number of local Authority houses erected	Nil
	Number of Old Peoples' dwellings erected	25
	Number of Private houses erected	36
	Dwellings in course of erection - Local Authority .	Nil
	Dwellings in course of erection - private	5
	Houses closed or demolished under Section 17	
	of the Housing Act 1957	Nil
	Houses erected from 1.4.45 to 31.12.70	
	Local Authority	519
	Private Enterprise	362

(b) Housing maintenance is, in the main, carried out by direct labour except for gas and electricity services. It has again been necessary to frequently engage contract labour to carry out repairs in an attempt to keep the number of outstanding items to a minimum. The cost of both labour and materials is increasing rapidly and the unit cost allowed per house must be reviewed in 1971.

The engagement of an additional mason and a mason's labourer would avoid the necessity of employing contract labour and would, to some extent, lessen the effect of transferring men from work in progress to other work considered to be more urgent.

The number of complaints received during the year was 1,456 of which 98 were outstanding at the end of the year.

No. of houses painted by direct labour 21

No. of houses painted by contract labour 147

Because of extensive wet rot the roofs of a further 6 annexes to houses in Manship Green were renewed.

Condensation was again prevalent particularly at Hillmead and in almost every instance the root cause arose from inadequate heating and ventilation.

(c) Improvement Grants

(i) Discretionary Grants. 9 applications for discretionary grants were received during the year. 8 were approved and one was outstanding at the end of the year.

(ii) Standard. Four applications were received and approved.

7. FOOD

(a) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960. There were 28 visits to food premises during the year and in five instances attention was drawn to infringements of the Regulations.

The following table shows in categories the number of premises which are subject to the Regulations and to which the Regulations 16 and 19 apply.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 190

Trade	No. of Premises	No. complying With Reg. 16	No. of Premises to which Reg. 19 applies	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19
Grocers	11	11	11	11
Bakers	3	3	3	3
Confectioners	8	8	4	4
Greengrocers	4	4	4	4
Butchers	5	5	5	4
Catering Premises (including licensed premises)	28	28	28	28
Fishmongers	2	2	2	2
School Canteens	4	4	4	4
Works Canteens	3	3	3	3
TOTAL	68	68	64	63

(b) Unsound Food. The following foodstuffs were surrendered voluntarily as unfit for human consumption:-

Meat and Meat Products	1cwt. 1 qt. 9 lbs. 5 ozs.
Tinned meat, meat products and fish	1 cwt. 26 lbs. 10 ozs.
Fish	
Other canned foods	6 cwts. 2 qts. 1 stone 26 lbs. 1 oz.
Other foods	8 cwts. 2 qts. 27 lbs. 8 ozs.
Frozen Foods	2 cwts. 10 lbs. 6ozs.

Total 19cwt. 3 qts. 22 lbs. 14 ozs.

All unsound food delivered to or collected by Council staff is disposed of by burying at the Refuse Tip.

(c) Milk Supplies

No. of registered distributors 8

No. of registered dairy premises (exc. farms) 8

The sampling of milk is carried out by the Somerset County Council.

(d) Ice-Cream

No. of registered Premises 21

No. of manufacturers Nil

No samples were taken for bacteriological examination. In all cases supplies were obtained from well-known manufacturers either wrapped or in cartons.

(e) Slaughterhouses

There are none in operation in the District.

(f) Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Reg. 1963

Sampling of pasteurised eggs were carried out during this year and of the 27 samples taken, all were above Grade 4 of the alpha-amalyse test.

(g) Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing premises within the District.

8. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT

No. of premises registered - 85.

The survey of registered premises was continued during the year and of the 3 inspected work to comply with the Act was required at all 3.

5 other visits were made to give advice as to conditions necessary for compliance.

9. FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Part I of the Act

(i) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

	Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	No. of written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) *	Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	3	-	-
(2)	Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	34	4	-	-
(3)	Other Premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority * (Excluding out-workers premises)	1	1	-	-
	Totals	41	8	-	-

(ii) Cases in which defects were found - Nil

Part VIII of the Act

OUTWORK

Section 110			Section 111			
Nature of Work	No. of outworkers in August list reqd. by Sec. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel: Making Etc.	16	-	-	-	-	-
Cleaning Washing	-	-	-	-	-	-

10. CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

No action was necessary during the year.

11. KNACKERS YARDS

There are none in the district

12. RODENT CONTROL

During the year 17 premises were treated for infestation by rats or mice. Public sewers throughout the District were again pre-baited followed by a poison treatment and takes were recorded.

13. VISITS

During the year the following visits were made:-

Public Health Acts

Nuisances	63
Caravans	8
Drain Tests	47
Building Regulations	260
Water Supplies.. .. .	17
Disinfestations/Infectious Diseases	12
Suspected Food Poisoning	29
Council houses and estates	551
Housing Improvement Grants	15
Unfit Houses	7
Clean Air Act	-
Petroleum Regulations	8
Food Hygiene Regulations	21
Unsound Food	25
Factories Acts	9
Town Planning	84
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	3
Refuse Disposal and Collection	108
Rodent Control	11
Sewers and Sewage Disposal	211
Swimming Pool	56
Pet Shops	1
Public Conveniences	8
Miscellaneous	291

Deryck E. Clare, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., M.R.S.H.

(Medical Officer of Health)

W.L. BARNSELY, C.ENG., F.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

(Senior Public Health Inspector)

